Remarks

Claims 1-16 remain pending in this application after entry of this paper. Claims 1-6, 10 and 14-16 stand rejected. Claims 7-9 and 11-13 have been objected to but have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicants believe that the invention is patentable.

Claims 1-4, 6, 10, and 14-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicants' admitted prior art. Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' admitted prior art in view of *Duplan Corp. v. Deering Milliken, Inc.*

With regard to claim 1, claim 1 recites a computer to telephone interface card. The card comprises a plurality of audio data input ports for receiving audio input data from the computer. The card further comprises a mixer and a converter. The mixer has a plurality of inputs in communication with the plurality of audio data input ports, and has an output. The plurality of mixer inputs receives the audio input data and the mixer, in real-time, generates a mixed audio output data signal at the mixer output. The converter has an input receiving the mixed audio output data signal, and has an output for connecting to a phone line to generate and provide mixed audio output to the phone line based on the audio input data received at the plurality of audio data input ports.

In the specification at page 2, Applicants explain that hardware manufacturers of interface cards for such telephone and IVR systems provide only a single data port or address for receiving audio data. That data port is accessed by a main processor or control logic, which subsequently transmits the data through a single output interface over a phone line after the conventional processing required to do so by the converter. Page 2, lines 1-9. If two or more audio signals are to be mixed together for use in such a system and method, the data for the two signals must be mixed in advance. That is, the audio data from the two signals

must first be mixed, and it is the resulting mixed audio data that is sent to the single data port of the interface card. Page 2, lines 10-18.

In contrast to the prior art, the invention comprehends, as recited by claim 1, a computer to telephone interface card comprising a plurality of audio data input ports for receiving audio input data from the computer in combination with other features. Claim 1 specifically recites "a plurality of audio data input ports" and also recites "a mixer having a plurality of inputs in communication with the plurality of audio data input ports." The prior art, on the other hand, provides only a single data port or address (12, Figure 1) for receiving audio data. In the prior art, the audio data from two signals must first be mixed, and it is the resulting mixed audio data that is sent to the single data port 12 of the interface card. This is far different than the claimed invention wherein the computer to telephone interface card comprises a plurality of audio data input ports for receiving audio input data from the computer, in combination with other features.

With regard to claim 1, the Examiner makes reference to the specification on page 6, lines 15-21, and page 7, lines 7-17. At page 6, lines 15-21, Applicants explain that the invention comprehends utilizing the well-known co-processors on the cards to at least mix, and preferably to also adjust relative volume or gain levels of two or more separate audio data input signals. In this way, many well-known audio production methods can be performed on automated telephone information and/or IVR systems. There is no admission of prior art that anticipates the invention. Applicants only explain that the invention may utilize existing co-processors of interface cards and may utilize known audio production methods. However, as specifically recited by claim 1, the invention involves "a plurality of audio data input ports for receiving audio input data from the computer." Any admission only refers at most to the source of processing power and the possible audio methods. However, the claims recite combinations involving greater detail.

Regarding page 7, lines 7-17, the specification does refer to well-known and conventional mixing techniques. However, this is only explaining that the particular mixing

techniques used by the invention may be conventional. However, the invention itself involves a combination including "a plurality of audio data input ports for receiving audio input data from the computer."

Independent claim 6 also recites specific details of the plural audio input ports. The remaining claims are dependent claims, and the recited combinations are believed to be patentable at least for the reasons given with respect to independent claims 1 and 6.

Applicants believe that all claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. After all, as clearly explained in the Background Art section of the application, existing cards provide only a single data port or address for receiving audio data and mixing must be done in advance.

Respectfully submitted,
ELIOT M. CASE ET AL.

By _____
Jeremy J. Curcuri
Reg. No. 42,454
Attorney for Applicant

Date: March 14, 2005

BROOKS KUSHMAN P.C.
1000 Town Center, 22nd Floor
Southfield, MI 48075-1238
Phone: 248-358-4400
Fax: 248-358-3351